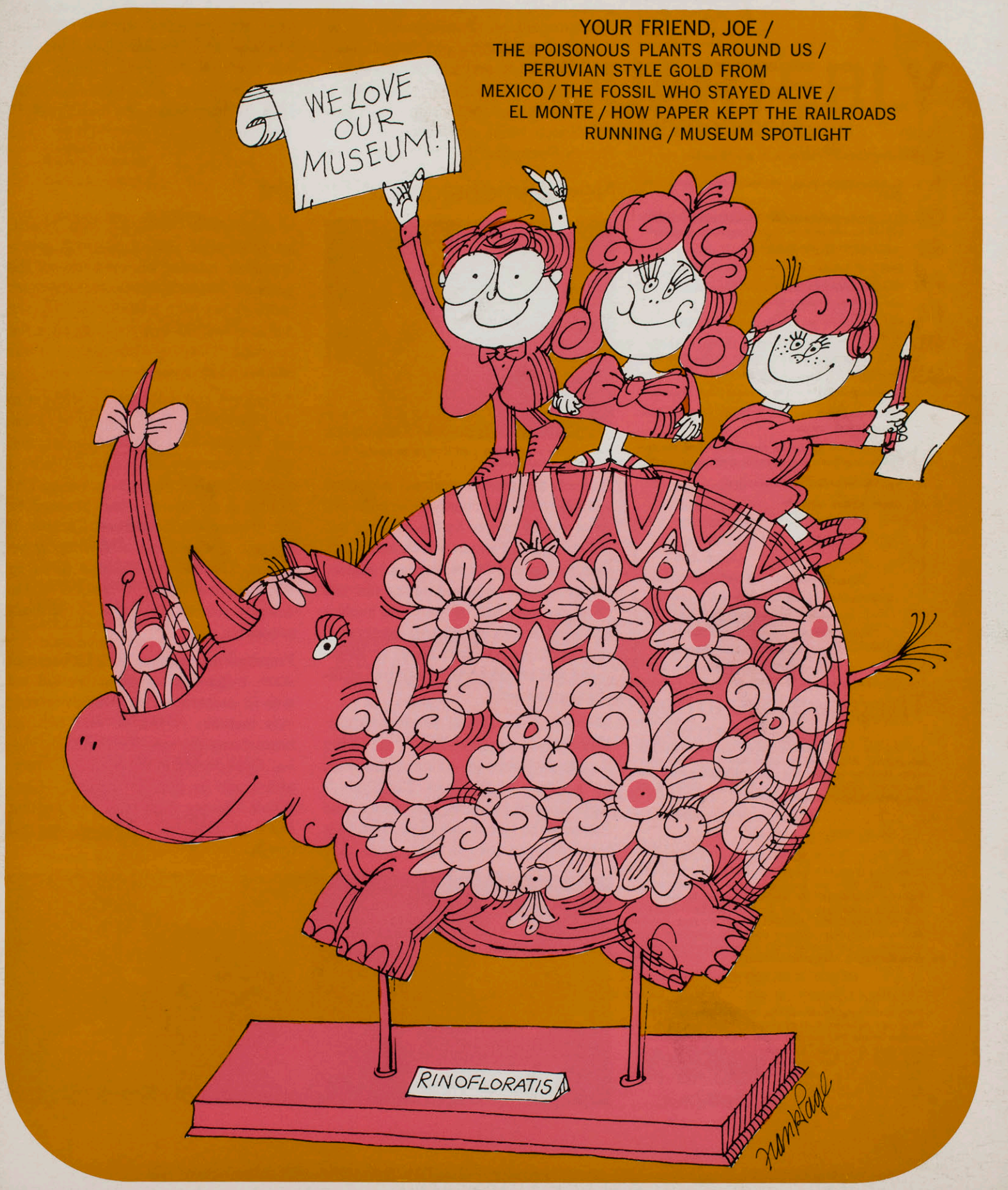
MUSEUM ALLIANCE

QUARTERLY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM
VOL. 4, NO. 1
SUMMER, 1965



YOUR FRIEND, JOE /
THE POISONOUS PLANTS AROUND US /
PERUVIAN STYLE GOLD FROM
MEXICO / THE FOSSIL WHO STAYED ALIVE /
EL MONTE / HOW PAPER KEPT THE RAILROADS
RUNNING / MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

MUSEUM ALLIANCE

Membership

Privileges and Pleasures of Membership are:

1. A subscription to the Museum Alliance QUARTERLY
2. Invitations to the NEW DIMENSIONS TO DELIGHT series of family participation programs – not open to the public
3. Summer science excursions for children
4. The monthly CALENDAR OF EVENTS from the Los Angeles County Museum
5. 50% discount on tickets for the Science and History Lecture Series
6. 20% discount on most items at the Museum Bookshop
7. Announcement for the annual Film Circuit
8. Announcement for the annual Where-in-the-World travel series
9. Invitations to previews and receptions for the new exhibitions and to meet lecturers
10. Additional selected publications
11. Other bonus rewards

When in doubt give a Museum Alliance Membership as a graduation gift – birthday present – anniversary occasion – to assist Santa – or just to say "Come join with me in a meaningful experience." Active Annual Membership – $10.

Things we love to hear

April 27, 1965

Can hardly realize that tomorrow I start on the big adventure. Want you to know how much all your work is appreciated and many thanks go to you and your helpers from me. Shall be thinking of you often. With Kindest regards,

Fanny Conoly

May 15, 1965

Greetings from the banks of the mighty Nile. We have just finished seeing Karnak Temples and Valley-of-the-Kings. We believe Karnak is the outstanding attraction of all Egypt. Very few tourists (out of season) and weather almost perfect. Egypt defies description. Many thanks to you and Alliance for a most satisfactory Atlantic journey. Very smooth flight – wonderful food.

Lois & T. J. Wright

I am enclosing $6.00 for the registration fee of the Summer Science Excursions for children. I am so happy to see this project again this year as my son attended last year. You have no idea how much happiness my son and the rest of my family had. The instructors were marvelous. I could never praise them enough.

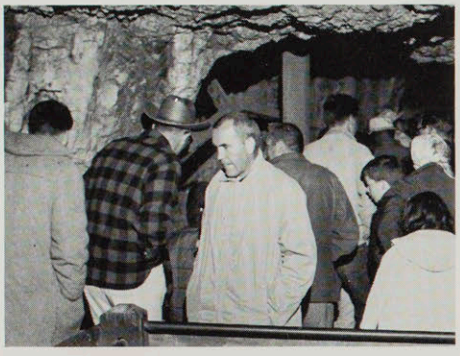
Sincerely, Mrs. Wahl

Annual Meeting

The May Annual Meeting of the Museum Alliance was well attended and guests had the pleasure of hearing Ralph Altman speak on "Primitive Art in Los Angeles." As Curator of Ethnic Collections at UCLA and a Research Associate for the Museum Mr. Altman is a vital link in the relationship of the two institutions which produced the "Gold Before Columbus" exhibition last year.

Part of the official business of the day included election of the following new members of the Board of Directors: Mrs. Robert Edwards, Mr. William Eldridge, Mrs. Everett Hager, Mr. Edwin Harbach, Mr. Fred Runyon, Mrs. Ewing Seligman, Mr. Charles Schwartz, Mrs. E. Haley Stuart, Jr., and Mr. H. C. Tensfeldt.

New Dimensions to Delight



Alliance members tour a gold mine as part of the Day in the Field event.

One of the most successful programs (judging from the many phone calls and letters) to be offered by the Alliance was A Day In The Field in March and April. One weekend of the geology and paleontology venture occurred during our late rains, but over half of the ticket holders attended in spite of the bad weather. A tour through the gold mine at Rosamond was an informative side trip available to members.

One of our most loved Board members, Mrs. Preston Hotchkis, made the Bixby Ranch available to Alliance members for a Fiesta on April 24. The Roundtable Docents spent the day prior to the Fiesta at the Ranch with Mrs. Hotchkis in preparation for the house tours they so successfully conducted. Mrs. Hotchkis (Katharine Bixby) charmed everyone while relating her memories of the years she lived there. Much of the outer property has been sold recently and the Alliance was the last group to have the privilege of visiting while the ranch was still over 130 acres.

A fragrant and enjoyable conclusion to the New Dimensions series in May was our Wildflower Exhibit in connection with the showing of LOOK DOWN, a nature film of unusual quality. The exhibit is an annual event planned by Dr. Bonnie C. Templeton, Curator of Botany, and a most rewarding experience. The film was loaned to us by Mr. Leighton Wilkie, a member of the Alliance Board . . . and one of the film's producers.

Preparations for the New Dimensions series to be announced in the fall are now in preparation and at this writing may include: A marine field trip, an historic tour through San Fernando Valley, Open House in the Science Laboratories, and by popular demand – Grey Whale Charter Boat trips and another DAY IN THE FIELD for geology and fossils.

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QUARTERLY

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YOUR FRIEND, JOE

by Richard Lipscomb, Museum Education Specialist

Photos by: Ashley Foster
Armando Solis

The Egyptian mummy caught my eye and I told my mom it reminded me of her.

Your friend,

Each year nearly a hundred thousand youngsters from schools within Los Angeles County tour through the Museum in the program arranged by the Museum's Education Division. For many of these students it is their first introduction to the Museum.

As I walked in I was amazed at the huge sights. The thing that really startled me was the Imperial Elephant. I still don't see how such a short neck could hold up such a huge head and such long and heavy tusks.

Sincerely,

Almost without exception the children recognize that something momentous is happening to them as they are guided through the Museum and into the presence of animals and events about which they have been studying. It is an exciting time; and whenever the effect becomes too overwhelming, the custodial service stands ready to deal with the occasional consequences of nervous stomachs.

The two most important gains for the visiting students are: their heightened sense of reality; and the widening of their horizons.

We learned much more than we had already learned in the classroom. We enjoyed it very much.

Your friends,

When you showed us the first families that were in Los Angeles they sure looked poor. There was one thing I liked best. It was those dioramas. You made them look so real. The Spanish must of been real hot on a hot day.

Your friend,

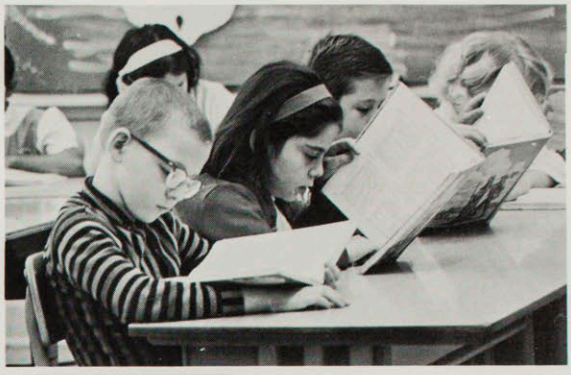
I particularly gave great interest in the Mexican period when you taught us how they chopped acorns and ate oranges at a fiesta.

Yours truly,

I think that our class had the best time at the Museum. I just loved every animal you showed us that day. And I liked the octopus and the polar bear the best. But most of all I liked everything.

Your friend,

The children prepare for their trip to the Museum



The more you know the more you'll appreciate

Lots of children come to the Museum . . . waiting . . . on the threshold of adventure

Photos by: Ashley Foster, Armando Salis

The bulk of the touring classes are of the grades three through five though there is provision also for occasional high school classes and even Junior College groups. For the most part, however, it is the youngest grades that descend upon the Museum in a flood. A regulated flood.

During four days of the week classes are scheduled for the various galleries of the Museum. The gallery, in effect, becomes a special kind of classroom in which real objects and visualisations (such as the historical dioramas and the Animal Habitat Groups) replace the words and pictures of the text books. During this time the Museum guide acts as instructor to the class, describing the exhibits in the gallery in a meaningful way. The regular teacher of each class is also present as an observer and to maintain order.

I'm very sorry if we did not sit down right away but we were excited. I'm sure everybody is sorry. Well, good-bye.

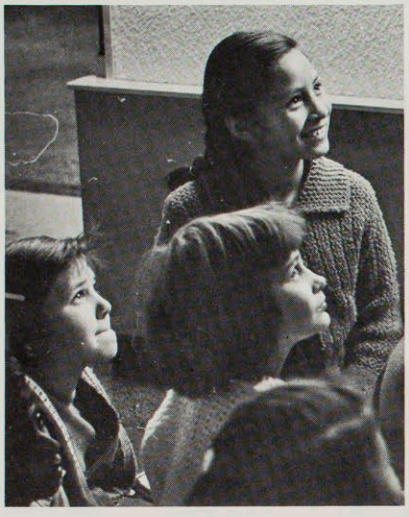
Yours truly,

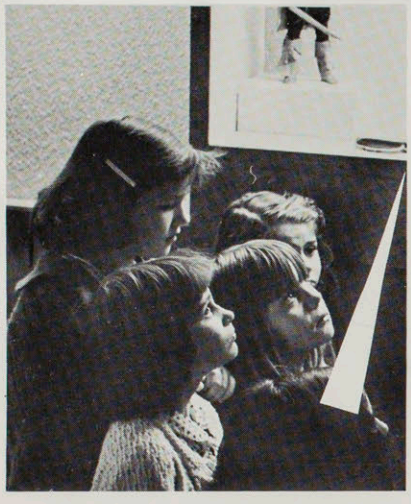
The Education Division employs six guides, the full number provided for at the present time. These guides meet six classes for each of the three morning hours beginning at ten, eleven and twelve o'clock. With a maximum of forty students for each gallery this means that eighteen classes, or approximately 700 students, may have the benefit of Museum guides for each of the four days of the school week, Tuesday through Friday, when the Museum is open. For the week the total may run to nearly 3,000 students for these morning hours alone.

This busy schedule means that six galleries (or more, if the teacher asks for study in several galleries within the hour) are occupied by classes each hour, leaving little or no latitude for unscheduled classes to roam the Museum. For this reason unscheduled classes are discouraged during these morning hours. The entire days of Saturdays and Sundays and afternoons of weekdays are available for unscheduled classes and Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sunday School classes and others take advantage of these times. Of course, the gen-

"Buckskin was used by the frontiersmen . . . You can feel and handle this . . ."

. . . to be excited by . . .





There is so much to wonder at in the Museum . . .

eral public is never excluded from any gallery during the hours the Museum is open.

Classes of handicapped children, crippled, blind, or with other special needs are given special treatment whenever they ask to come.

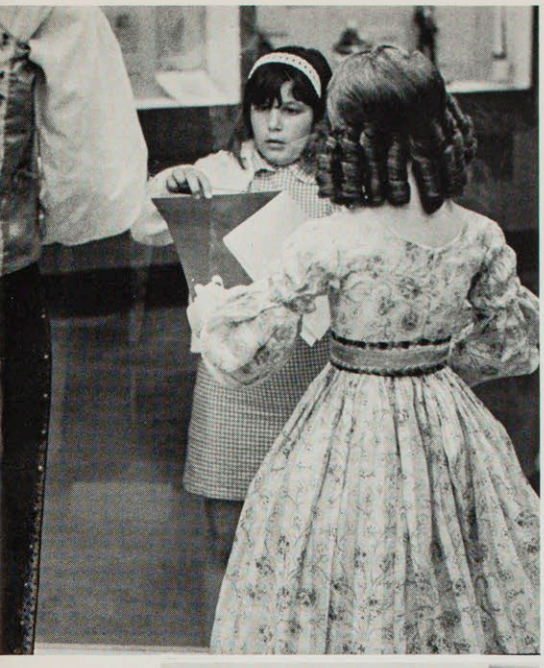
Many more classes apply each year for scheduling than can be accommodated. One limiting factor in the past has been the number of galleries available. With the removal of the art collection and the prospect of more galleries to be installed, there will be more locations in which to schedule classes and a greater variety of study tours to be offered. As these new galleries are opened it is expected additional guides will be hired and trained.

At the present time the Education Division is experimenting with tape recorded lecture-tours for classes which find themselves without the services of a guide. Sometimes, through ignorance of the Museum's policy, or through administrative error in their school districts, classes arrive at the Museum to find there is no provision for them. In such instances the tape play-back would serve as a stop-gap to occupy the class in an open gallery and so prevent disappointment for a large number of children. The tape play-back devices are not considered an equal substitute for a good teacher-guide, since there is no substitute for the give and take of question and answer; but it is seen as a partial answer to an occasional need.

It may also prove useful to the unscheduled classes that come afternoons and week-ends.

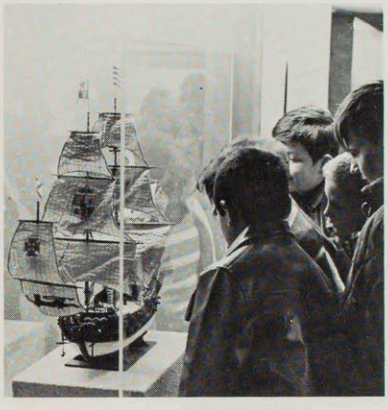
Once an appointment has been made and the scheduling verified, the Appointments Secretary sends explanatory material about the gallery to be visited to the teacher involved. Descriptive material for each of the study-guide galleries has been prepared by the Division of Education.

It is usual for the teacher to have a follow-up session after the class has returned to its school so that the students may dicuss what they have seen. Here again the descriptive material sent out by the Division of Education is of great aid because of the number of pictures enclosed which may be used as visual



So that's what they looked like . . . a hundred years ago . . . right here in California

"I saw amazing sights . . . a huge Ground Sloth . . ."



"Ships of the Mind" begin sailing with a sixteenth century Manila Galleon

reminders.

After we got back from the museum we discussed what we saw. I think the best thing was the flintlock gun. How did you get all these things?

Yours truly,

I enjoyed every part of the museum. I enjoyed the set-ups (dioramas) most of all. I forgot to ask you if the stagecoach was real.

Yours truly,

I really liked the saber tooth cats because they had neat-looking teeth. I want to know why you don't keep looking in the tar pits for more things? You might get lucky and find something interesting for people to look at.

Yours truly,

And so the Museum is encouraged to "get lucky" and find things to further strain credulity.

I especially liked the rooms of rocks. Our family are rockhounds. A couple of weeks ago went to Brea dump where we found fossils of fish and other animals such as crabs.

Yours truly,

I liked the Mission part best. We learned that the canteens were made of leather and water didn't taste good out of it.

Your friend,

Some children have parents who will bring them back to the Museum. Some will bring their parents to the Museum. And some will have to wait until later in life when remembrance of that first early experience in a museum will bring them back, or spur them to bring their children.

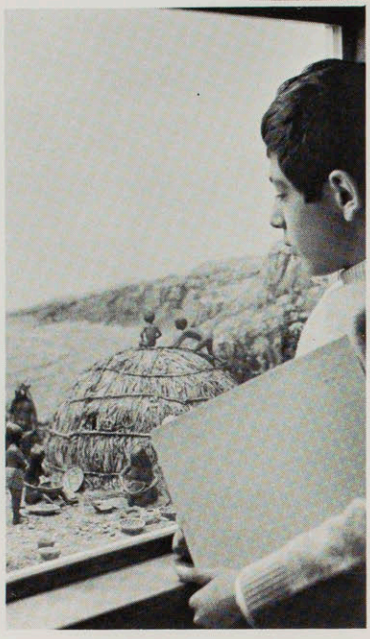
I'll try to bring my parents to the museum sometime to show them what I learned. I think it would be lots of fun.

Yours truly,

Constructive impressions made by these early visits to the Museum are deep and lasting and, at times, have even led to recruitment later in life as personnel in the Museum. Robert Gaal, Curator of Mineralogy, was one such early visitor. He first became a student in the special science courses offered by the Education Division, next a labora-

Now I know what the teacher wants. You can see all about it in the Museum.

That's the way Cabrillo saw them . . . and Portola . . . and Anza



tory assistant, then a staff member and finally a curator in the Division of Earth Sciences.

A number of other personnel early felt the pull of museum life, among them Charles Hogue, Curator of Entomology, and Preparators Jim Northern and Carl Gage. They had their first introduction to the Museum as members of touring classes.

Not all children are so directly guided into the choice of a career by exposure to the Museum but all benefit deeply in some way, and the value of the Museum is widely accepted.

When we went there the other day it made the third time. The Museum is so nice I wish I had it. But I don't have that much money to own anything like a Museum.

Yours truly,

For the children, the trip is in the nature of an outing; and it is understandable that the prospect makes it a Big Event. Late morning classes bring their lunches and have picnics in the park after their tour and have a chance to let off steam. Classes vary in orderliness; but the fact remains that the Museum is an imposing place to them, even as it is to their elders. A proof of their interest lies in the fact that very few of the students attempt to test the resonating qualities of our marble halls which we all know reverberate beautifully.

Invariably the visiting youngsters express gratitude for the guides and the attention bestowed on them. This is partly due to the generous nature of children themselves; but it also reflects on the care with which the guides are selected and trained. As part-time workers requiring excellent qualities of intelligence and temperament it has been found that the prime recruiting grounds for such people are the local colleges and the Museum docent program.

I liked everything. I liked the duckbilled dinosaur. And I liked you a lot.

Your friend

I wish I could be a guide at the museum and see everything there, too.

Sincerely yours,

The Gallery Guides prepare you for what you will see—and they also remind you of what you have seen.

Back at school we remember how it was at the Museum And we'd like to tell about it . . .

You get accustomed to hundred-year-old-carretas. You're at home in the Museum . . . in an older world. And there are so many other things to see . . .

As soon as the teacher can get to us.

I liked the saber tooth cat the best. I learned a lot about dinosaurs and I want to see you again and Merry Christmas to all.

Yours truly,

Reactions aren't always so seasonal, but they are, without exception, as hearty among the many expressions of gratitude sent in by students.

With the departure of Mrs. Dru Benefiel as Appointments Secretary at the beginning of this school year, the functioning of the school program has been a cooperative effort of other members of the Education Department, including Miss Hope Chevalier, Miss Gretchen Sibley, and Mr. Warren Schweitzer. Great credit is due Mrs. Benefiel for the manner in which she organized and supervised the school program. Now, with the appointment of Mrs. Mary Jo McGowan (biography in Museum Spotlight) the school program will continue to expand its services for the many school children in Los Angeles County who look forward to a visit to the Museum. Los Angeles' population is growing and so, too, will the facilities at the Los Angeles County Museum.

Galleries presently available to the school classes include: California History—Exploration and Missions, 1542-1821; California History—Rancho and Gold Rush, 1821-1880; Colonial Life; the Indian Halls, Coastal Indians and Indians of the Plains; Transportation; the Westward Movement; African Mammals; Birds and Small Mammals of Los Angeles County; Entomology; Hall of Evolving Life; La Brea Fossils; North American Mammals; and Minerals.

As one young Angelino expressed it:

I enjoyed coming to the Museum. The Museum was helpful in my work.

Your friend,

Joe

Can we say more?

THE POISONOUS PLANTS AROUND US

by Bonnie C. Templeton, Curator of Botany

There are many plants that we encounter on week-end trips and on vacation travels or in plantings in our gardens, parks, and parkways which are poisonous in one way or another. There are more than 400 species of wild plants and an undetermined number of attractive garden flowers, shrubs, and trees that cause either a contact dermatitis in humans or may cause serious poisoning if portions of the plants are ingested.

Some of the plants that cause dermatitis may produce serious skin irritation in some people while in others there is little or no reaction. Then there are those plants which contain serious poisons that will cause illness or death if eaten or used in connection with food that is wholesome. Information resulting from identifications made for doctors, emergency hospitals, police departments, the Poison Information Center in the Children's Hospital, and the many allergy patients sent to the Museum with causal plants for identification indicates that there are only a few plants that should be carefully avoided. There are a number of other plants that may be equally poisonous but because of various reasons these have not appeared to be as serious a threat to a person's well-being as those to be discussed here.

"Oleander" *(Nerium Oleander),* native of the Mediterranean region, and prized for its beauty and landscape usefulness, is widely planted in gardens, parks, and parkways. All parts of this plant, if eaten, are poisonous, and mothers should be especially careful that their small children do not eat any of these flowers or leaves. Two glucosides have been isolated from "Oleander," and one leaf contains enough of the poisonous principles to kill an adult person. In experimenting with grazing animals it has been found that a minimum of 1 to 5 grams will cause death. One should never use the stems of "Oleander" as skewers in barbecuing meats or roasting wieners. Records appear in historical reports where troops had skewered their meats with disastrous results.

Of the many kinds of mushrooms occurring in southern California there are two species that are of great concern. One occurs in wooded areas and the other commonly appears in lawns. The more serious of the two, and one of the most poisonous of all the mushrooms is

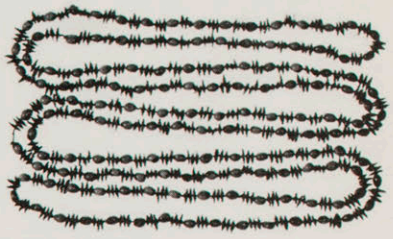
the "Death Cup" *(Amanita phalloides)*. Locally, it occurs in Griffith and Elysian Parks. The "Death Cup" is entirely white except for the pale yellow to yellow-brown tinge on top of its cap. Its distinguishing characters are the white gills and spores, the ring on the stem and a bulbous base surrounded by a closely adhering cup. The symptoms of poisoning from this mushroom are not pleasant and first appear from about 10 to 12 hours after consumption. An antitoxic serum has been developed at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, which has helped to save many lives where persons received immediate medical attention. The death rate, variously reported from 60 to 100 per cent, is high and is more serious in children than in adults.

The other mushroom to be avoided is one that very frequently occurs in lawns. It is the "Morgan's Lepiota" *(Lepiota Morgani)* and is most abundant from May to October. Although it is not deadly poisonous, it has caused mushroom poisoning cases that run as high as 15 cases a week during summer months. It has characters similar to the deadly *Amanita* except that there are brownish flakes on the cap. The white gills beneath the cap will turn a pale green shortly after opening of the cap and subsequently become a dirty grey-green in older mushrooms. The base does not have a cup. It produces gastro-intestinal symptoms often within a half hour after a meal of them, then terminates spontaneously with the patient being restored to health in a day or two. Unfortunately, this species belongs to a group of similar species that is generally edible. There is no test, however, such as peeling of the cap or silver spoon, that will help to determine the edibility of a mushroom. If one is collecting mushrooms growing wild and is not absolutely certain they are edible, the specimens should be identified by a botanist familiar with mushrooms.

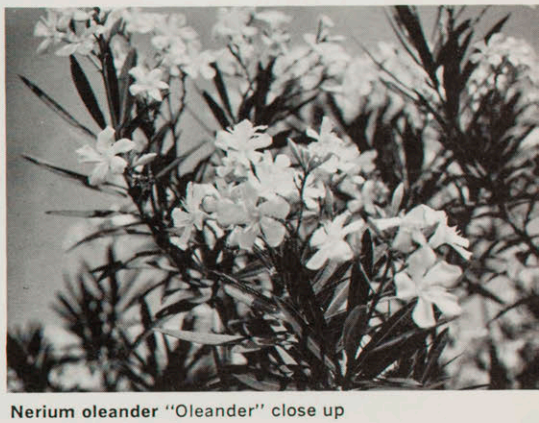
Several cases of poisoning have appeared where persons mistakenly cooked the young shoots of "Tree Tobacco" *(Nicotiana glauca),* believing them to be spinach or "greens." The tree tobacco, a slender shrub with wand-like branches and long tubular flowers, is native to South America. It is now commonly seen in southern California along roadsides, in canyons, and on hillsides. The plant is highly toxic when ingested, with symptoms appearing soon after being eaten. Fortunately the poisoning is not always fatal.

The fruits and seeds of a number of plants have caused many cases of poisoning. Highest among these offenders is the "Castor-Bean" *(Ricinus communis)*. It is a robust annual herb up to 15 feet tall, native of the tropics, and frequently planted in the east for horticultural purposes and grows wild in our local area. There are now a number of horticultural forms of the "Castor Bean," one of which is a purplish-bronze leafed form frequently planted in gardens in southern California. All parts of the plant are poisonous, particularly the seeds, and when two to four seeds are eaten serious poisoning is produced, occasionally with fatal results. In some cases only single seeds have produced poisoning. Eight seeds are usually lethal. The poisonous ricin in the seeds is not readily absorbed through the wall of the intestinal tract and the degree of poisoning depends upon how well the person has masticated the beans in eating them. Persons who have tasted the beans say they have a sweet nut-like flavor. Obviously children should not be allowed access to areas where "Castor-Bean" plants are growing.

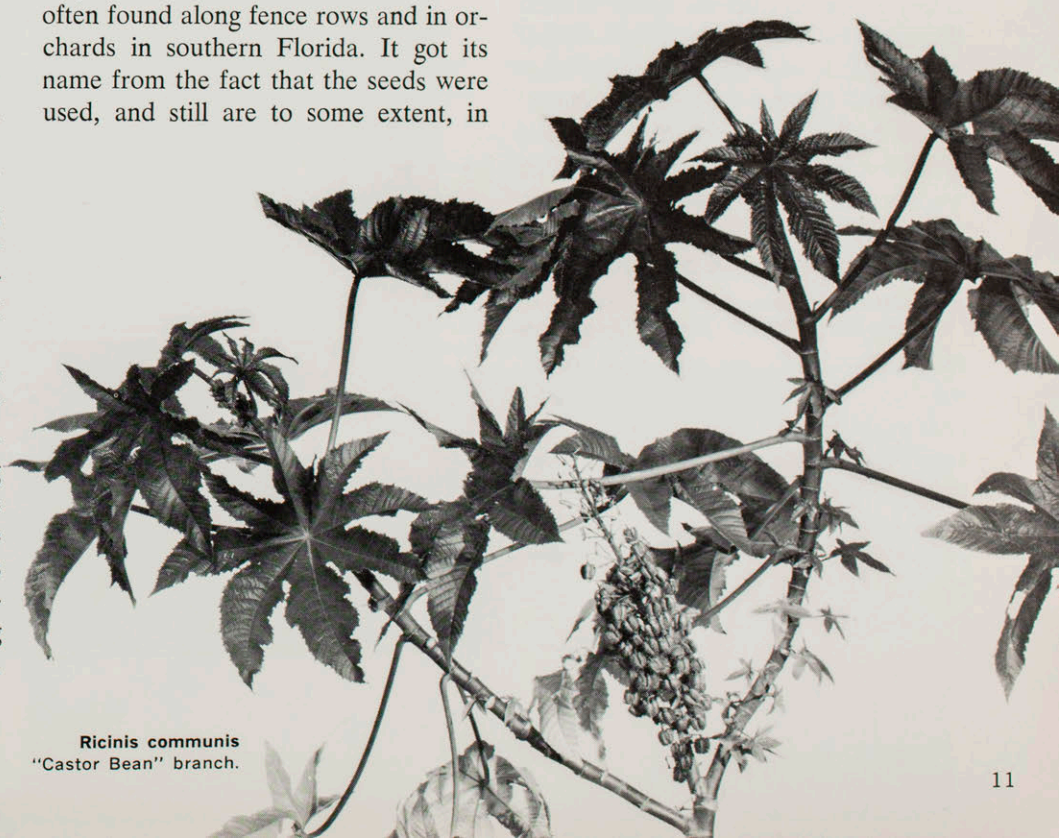
The "Rosary Pea" *(Abrus Precatorius)* is perhaps the most deadly poisonous seed for its size that is frequently encountered. The plant is common in tropical areas around the world and is often found along fence rows and in orchards in southern Florida. It got its name from the fact that the seeds were used, and still are to some extent, in



Necklace in which "Rosary Pea" seeds were used.



Nerium oleander "Oleander" close up of flowering branch.



Ricinis communis "Castor Bean" branch.

making rosaries or prayer beads. Currently, many objects such as necklaces, belts, and purses are purchased by tourists in their travels to countries where these seeds are used by natives for their handiwork. The seeds are beautifully colored, red at one end and black at the other, oval to almost round, and about ¼ inch long. Only a portion of one seed if thoroughly chewed has been known to kill a person. The seed has a hard coat, however, and if this is not broken before the seed is swallowed most of the toxic principle will not be released from the seed before passing through the digestive tract, and the results, therefore, will not usually be fatal.

There is another plant that produces seeds similar to the "Rosary Pea" which is "Crab-eye Rynchosia" and the seeds of it are occasionally found in bead work. The two kinds of seeds differ in that the stem attachment occurs in the black portion of the seed of the "Rosary Pea," but in the red portion of the "Crab-eye Rhynchosia." All caution should be used to prevent children from playing with objects made with "Rosary Pea" seeds.

One of our most attractive native shrubs, "Buckeye" or "Horse-Chestnut" *(Aesculus californica),* has caused poisoning in a number of cases. It is a tall shrub with long spikes of white to pinkish flowers and bears fruits that somewhat resemble the avocado in form and appearance. Reports indicate that persons have been poisoned by eating the honey produced from the nectar of their flowers. The fruit of the "Horse-Chestnut" has long been known to be poisonous, even by the California Indians. These Indians used the fruit for food after first leaching out the poisons. One wonders how many Indians died from eating these fruits before they learned how to first remove the poisonous principle.

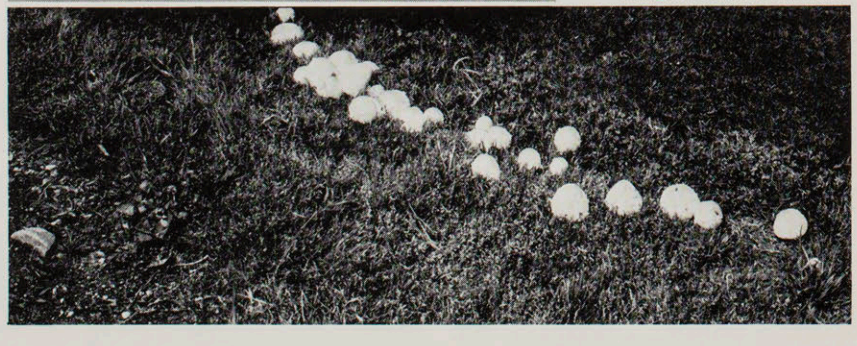
There are many other poisonous plants growing in our area both in the wild and in our gardens that may be equally poisonous to those just discussed, but cases of poisoning from these occur less frequently. One should not, just because certain plants may be poisonous, exclude them from garden plantings. Knowledge and caution is the better part of wisdom in the use and enjoyment of plants in the garden.

Nicotiana glauca
"Tree Tobacco." Young shoots.

Aesculus californica
"Horse-Chestnut" tree in flower

Amanita phalloides "Death Cup."

"Fairy ring" of
Morgan's Lepiota in lawn.



PERUVIAN-STYLE GOLD FROM MEXICO

P. T. Furst, Research Associate

The first Inca booty to fall into the hands of the Spaniards was not the 2000 pounds of gold and silver taken from the sacked city of Coaque, in what is now Ecuador, in 1531, but the cargo of a large trading raft encountered by Pizarro's pilot, Bartolomeo Ruiz, five years earlier, in 1526.

This raft with a capacity of some 36 gross tons was travelling northward with 20 persons, intent on a profitable trading expedition with the Indians living on the Ecuadorian coast. Its cargo was a precious one—cloaks and garments of brightly colored woven cotton and wool, stone mirrors in silver frames, woven belts and headgear, pottery jars and, most importantly—to the Spaniards at least—much gold and silver. It was a fateful meeting, this chance encounter on the seas, for it gave the Spaniards their first sight of Inca riches and so sealed the ultimate doom of the great indigenous civilization of the Andes. But for the culture historian it also represents a valuable eyewitness account of the extensive trading operations which linked distant cultures and areas in pre-Hispanic America to one another.

How far north did such trading expeditions carry Peruvian ideas and culture elements? Did they stop in Ecuador and Colombia, or was there contact also with western Mexico? Many students of Pre-Columbian America believe that there was considerable contact between Mesoamerica and the lands to the south, not only in Inca times but far earlier—as early, in fact, as the second millenium B.C. The evidence for this is highly suggestive: figurines and pottery styles reminiscent of Mesoamerica in Peru, and vice versa, and more importantly, the introduction of Mesoamerican maize (or, as we call it, corn) into northern Peru about 1200 B.C. One might argue that some resemblances between pottery styles and designs can be accidental, but only direct contact can explain maize on the north coast of Peru.

The secret of metalworking evidently reached Mexico from the south in post-Classic times, after 850-900 A.D. But even though there are some interesting similarities, Mesoamerican and South American objects of precious metal can, as a rule, be easily differentiated by style.

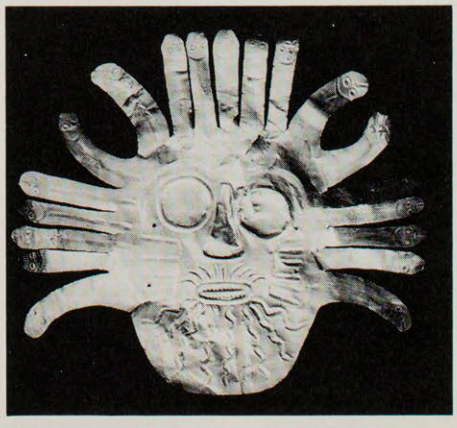
But there are exceptions. Visitors to the Gold Before Columbus exhibition, held last year at the Los Angeles County Museum, may recall the striking Nazca gold ornament with its radiating serpents (Fig. I) from the collections of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York, which became the exhibition's symbol. Cut from the most finely beaten sheet gold, it represents a bearded human face with round, staring eyes, from which emerge, medusa-like, nineteen serpents.

Shortly after the exhibition closed, the writer and his wife left for an extended field trip to Mexico, in the course of which Sr. Federico A. Solorzano* of Guadalajara, Jalisco, kindly permitted us to study and photograph his unique collection of gold and silver ornaments found in West Mexican burials. In the Solorzano collection we came across two small sheet gold ornaments (Fig. 2) which immediately struck us with their close similarity to the Nazca pectoral. So close was this resemblance that it seemed to preclude the possibility of accidental parallels. The Mexican pieces are smaller, there are fewer serpents, to be sure, and the faces, too, are treated somewhat differently in design if not technique. But the symbolism is clearly identical. Moreover, the Nazca ornament and those from Western Mexico (Jalisco or Colima) share a peculiar U-shaped design formed by two of the serpents at either side of the head. It is possible that this U-element may in fact represent a single double-headed serpent rather than the upper bodies of two serpents.

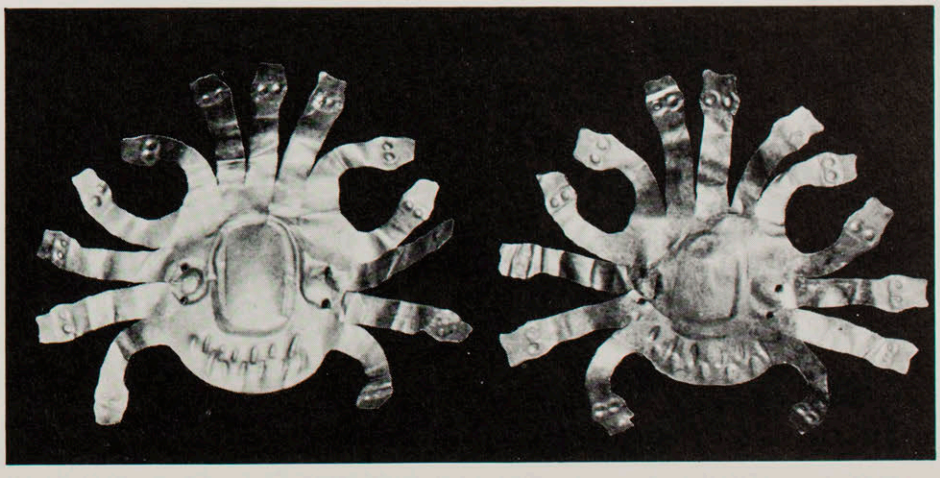
The Nazca ornament probably dates from the early centuries of the Christian era (Nazca A?), although an earlier date cannot be excluded. How old are those from Mexico? This is impossible to say—indeed, even their exact provenance is not known. Their close similarity to the Peruvian ornament (of which other examples are known) does suggest contemporaneity, which means that they may predate by several centuries the earliest appearance of metal working in Mexico itself. Inferentially, then, they may in fact be Peruvian objects which somehow made their way by trade to Western Mexico at some time early in the first millenium A.D. If so, they represent unique evidence for culture contact between western Mexico and Peru some one thousand or more years before the conquistador Bartolomeo Ruiz sighted his Inca trading raft off the coast of Ecuador in 1526.

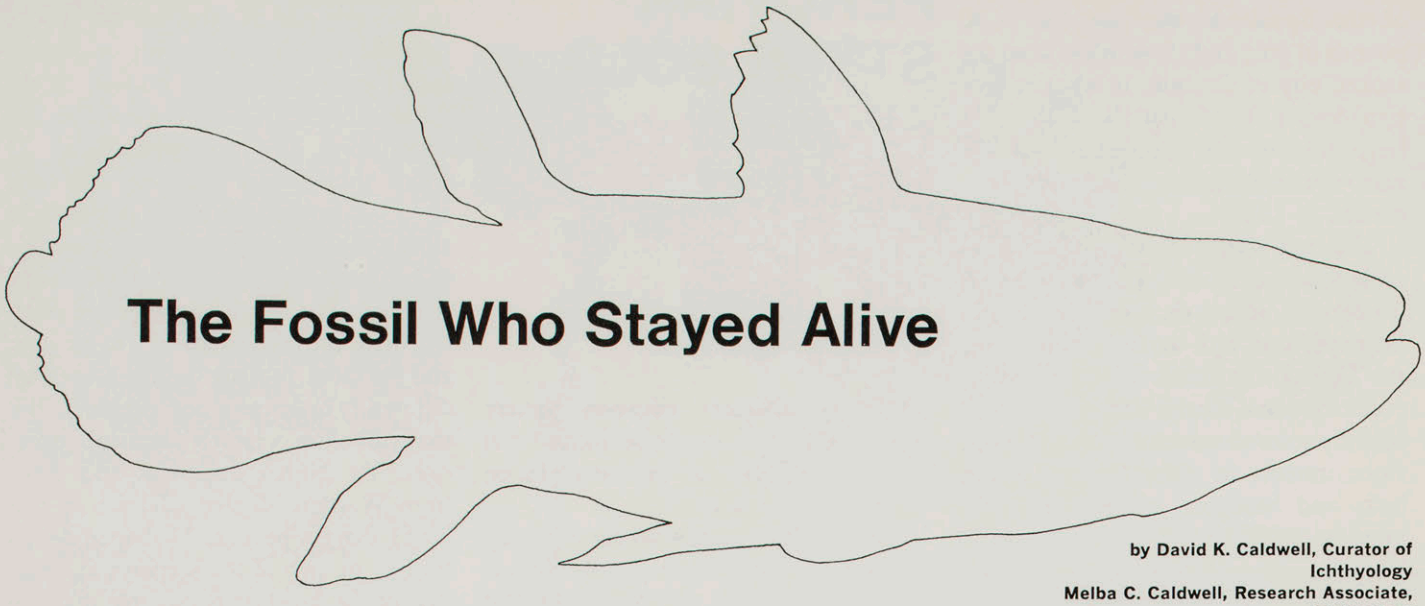
(*Señor Solorzano is also deeply interested and well versed in the paleontology of Jalisco and is working on several scientific projects in cooperation with Los Angeles County Museum scientists.)

Nazca pectoral of finely beaten sheet gold, possibly representing solar or lunar deity, from the south coast of Peru. Height: 7½", Width: 8½". From the collections of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York.



Two gold ornaments of beaten sheet gold, found in western Mexico but closely resembling similar objects from the Nazca culture in southern Peru. Left: 3¼" wide, 2 7/16" high; right: 3 1/8" wide, 2 3/8" high. From the collection of Sr. Federico A. Solorzano, Guadalajara, Jalisco.





The Fossil Who Stayed Alive

by David K. Caldwell, Curator of Ichthyology
Melba C. Caldwell, Research Associate, Ichthyology

"Living Coelacanth discovered off South Africa!" read a headline stopper in December 1938. The news story told of a native fisherman who had hauled up a fish later dubbed "Old Fourlegs." A renowned South African ichthyologist (fish scientist), Dr. J. L. B. Smith had identified the catch as a Coelacanth. Had the story told of a dinosaur galloping up Wilshire Boulevard, the scientific world could not have been more shaken.

The astounding fact about the Coelacanths (see-la-kanth) is that they supposedly became extinct in the Cretaceous Period *ninety million years ago.* No fossil remains have been discovered which indicate a more recent date of living. It is not too unusual to find an animal group, such as the lung fishes and sea turtles, and certain invertebrate types, which has found a satisfactory environmental niche and persisted for millions of years without major change. But in the case of the Coelacanths, it is as though the entire group had gone underground (or undersea) for this great period of time.

"Old Fourlegs" is an indicative name. Coelacanth fins are rudimentary lobed limbs which appear to be capable of walking. They point up the most striking difference between Coelacanths, living and fossil, and the bony fish we know today. The "fin-limbs" also indicate that the Coelacanth derived directly from fishes that lived 300 million years ago (Crossopterygians of the Devonian Period). As a descendant of these older fishes, the Coelacanth is of special interest because it is the closest link among the fishes to the amphibians (also Crossopterygian derivatives) and eventually to all land vertebrates *including man.* To have the Coelacanth alive and fresh for study is a rare opportunity for science.

If it had not been for the sharp eyes of the curator of a small South African Museum, Miss Courtenay-Latimer, this opportunity might never have been offered. She first saw the ugly five-foot fish aboard a fishing vessel. Suspecting that it might be of scientific importance, she communicated with the only ichthylogist available. Unfortunately he was 350 miles away; fortunately he was Dr. J. L. B. Smith.

Professor Smith immediately recognized the similarity between the rough sketch mailed him and the pictures that he had seen of fossil Coelacanths. His suspicion of their relationship seemed beyond all reason, but the similarity was too impressive to be overlooked. He vacillated between belief and disbelief before taking action.

No man wishes to appear a crackpot before his fellows, and Dr. Smith's world was one of staid scientific solidarity. In his response to Miss Courtenay-Latimer, he guardedly hinted at his thoughts and asked that the fish be carefully saved. Because of a heartrending series of unfortunate circumstances, when Dr. Smith finally viewed the specimen, it had been reduced to nothing more than the skin. This had been preserved and mounted and was enough to verify his monstrous suspicions. When the news was announced, the scientific world was astounded.

As often happens in science, the discovery led only to the creation of more puzzles. Where were other Coelacanths to be found? Why had they not been found before? What about the anatomical parts that had so unfortunately been lost?

Intermittently during the next fourteen years, Professor Smith tried to find the answers to these questions. And he did find them. One of the most incredible stories in modern biological history reached its happy ending when he found the second living Coelacanth. Dr. Smith unashamedly relates that as he caressed the smelly fish, he looked down and saw his hands bathed in his own tears.

The first two questions were answered. The species lived in an isolated and restricted area, the Comores Islands, between the northern tip of the large island of Madagascar and the African mainland. Although the stories differ in the replies of the native fishermen when shown pictures of the fish (viz., "We have been eating them for generations," or "Those are no good to eat."), the important point is that the fishermen were completely familiar with the Coelacanth. They saw no reason for all the commotion.

Dr. Shelton Applegate, paleoichthyologist on our Museum staff, was in the Comores last fall and talked to some of

Coelacanth the living fossil

the fishermen although he saw no freshly caught Coelacanths. He was told that off Morone, Grand Comore Island, these fish are caught only in December in relatively shallow (350 feet) water. The research ship he was on had charted the bottom in that region as they cruised over it, and had found a series of high peaks and deep, very steep-sided canyons much deeper than 350 feet.

Possibly there is some seasonal vertical migration by the Coelacanths from deeper water in December. During the rest of the year the lines of the fishermen perhaps do not reach the depths of this fish's habitat. Dr. Applegate noted that the drop off of the canyon walls is so steep and rapid that a fisherman could vary the depth over which he was fishing by hundreds of feet while moving on the surface only a few feet in either direction. Consequently, a fisherman staying essentially in one spot could easily lose his quarry to the depths beyond his fishing range without the fish having to migrate very far geographically.

Such mysteries as the former obscurity of the Coelacanth often are only a matter of relatively simple factors. Solving the mystery is then a matter of pure luck, of being at exactly the right place at exactly the right time. These biological treasure hunts are part of the romance of science.

Several Coelacanths have since been found and their anatomy painstakingly studied. The studies of the living fossil point up the accuracy with which paleontologists have been reconstructing life from its fossil remains. The living fish is almost exactly as the scientists had pictured it to be, and every major inference that they had made from fossils about the basic anatomy was confirmed by the live ones. This was a real triumph for paleoichthyology. It had been suggested, for instance, that teeth may have evolved from scales. Some shark's teeth show evidence for this. The Coelacanth demonstrated teeth that are clearly transformed scales.

The first fossil remains which the ichthologists examined were discovered in England by Louis Agassiz, the great Swiss-American naturalist and geologist who gave the world the story of the movement of glaciers. The fossil Coelacanth was judged to have lived about 300 million years ago.

British Cretaceous chalk yielded the most recent *marine* forms of the Coelacanth. The remains are of fishes slightly smaller in size than the largest known modern forms. The most recent *freshwater* Coelacanth fossils are even older and reach the size of living forms. They come from the Triassic fossil beds of the eastern United States and lived 180 million years ago, twice as far back as the latest fossil marine forms.

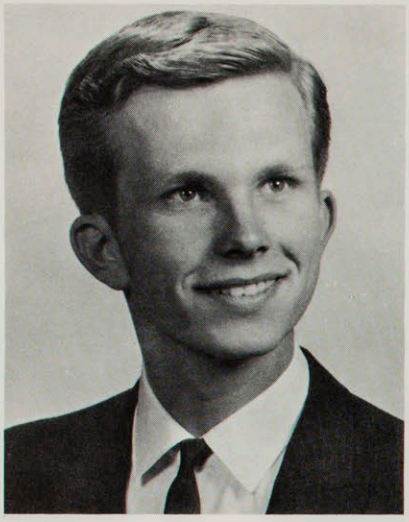
Since the discoveries of Agassiz, many more fossils of the same group of fishes have been found in various geologic formations. The span of the fossil group was roughly 210 million years. An amazing feat accomplished by the group during these eons was an effective transfer from salt water to fresh water, then a return to salt water. All these moves were made without significant change in structure.

Recently a group of scientists at the University of California, Los Angeles, were fortunate in obtaining an excellent specimen of the modern Coelacanth. They have used it for a variety of tissue studies, mostly biochemical in nature. Acutely aware of its interest to specialists in taxonomy and external morphology, the scientists took great care to preserve, completely intact, one side and the vertical fins of the fish for study and exhibit.

After a period of public display in the Department of Zoology at UCLA, the Coelacanth will be presented to the Los Angeles County Museum. Here it is expected to be on exhibit before its final deposit in the Museum's ichthyological research collections where it will be available for study by qualified scientists. Ours will be one of two or three modern Coelacanths in this country and the only one on the West Coast.

The Museum already exhibits a lifelike, full size cast of one of the first Coelacanths captured. This cast was obtained in 1958 through the cooperation of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris.

For those interested in reading more of the first discoveries of the living Coelacanth, Dr. Smith's book THE SEARCH BENEATH THE SEA (Henry Holt & Co., 1956) or OLD FOURLEGS, as it was entitled in its British edition, will provide well-written, exciting details.



This year the History Division of the Museum participated in a Field Program with Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Students at Bard are required to spend approximately seven weeks a year, under supervision, at employment related to their major. The purpose of this Field Program is to give the students the opportunity to "explore vocational, creative, or intellectual interests outside the classroom." This enables them to see the relations between what they are studying and the work they will later be called on to do. They also learn what qualifications they possess or lack, and gain some insight into the purposes and methods of a specific field. At the close of this program, when the students return to their classes, they are required to submit a paper summarizing their experience and analyzing its importance to their future. The student who chose to spend his Field Period with us was Henry Nelson of El Monte. He was instructed in the various areas of the history museum and worked with staff members on the actual projects in which the Division was engaged at that time.

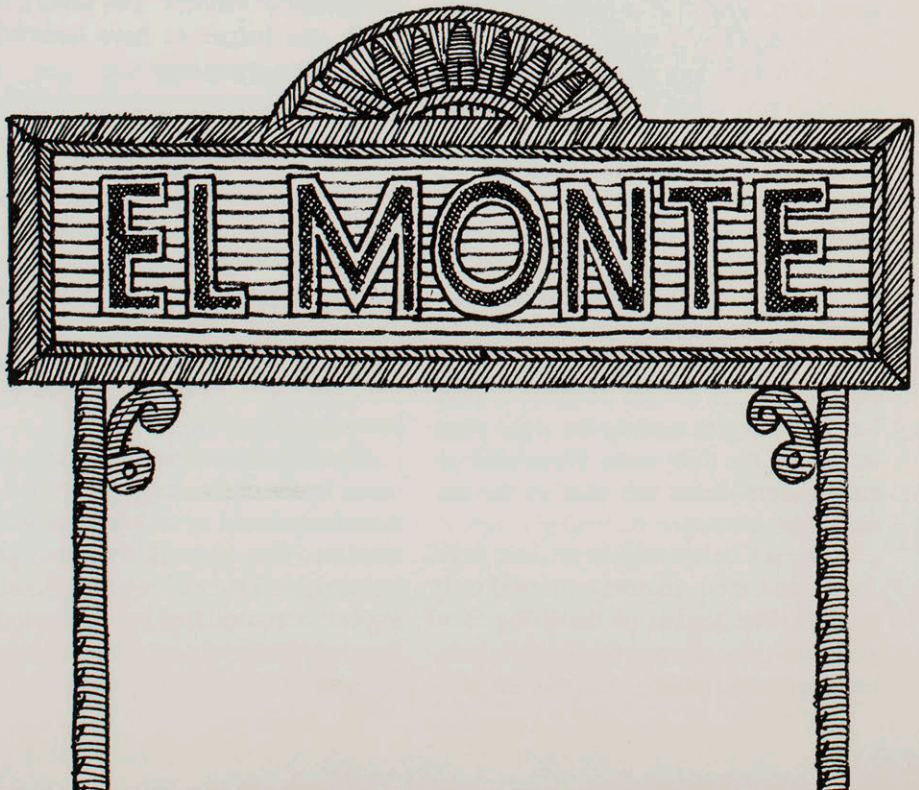
During Henry's work with us we were preparing articles for the Winter QUARTERLY. He asked whether it would be possible for him to do an article for a later issue. The accompanying article, EL MONTE, was prepared by Henry for inclusion in this issue.

Ruth I. Mahood
Chief Curator
History Division

The history of Los Angeles would be incomplete without the history of the towns and ranchos in the surrounding area, but their contribution to the growth and prosperity of Los Angeles County is often neglected in chronicles of local history. An example is the town of El Monte.

Before the white man came the present site of El Monte was a stand of willow trees on the banks of the San Gabriel River, sixteen miles east of Los Angeles. The trees gave the site the appearance of an oasis in the middle of the dry San Gabriel Valley. The soil was rich and in many places marshy.

When the Spanish ranchos were being established in California the El Monte area became part of the southern boundary of the San Francisquito Rancho. On the east it was bordered by the Puente Rancho, owned by John Rowland and William Workman, two of the early Americans in Southern California.



In 1850 a wagon train under the command of Royse Oatman departed from Independence, Missouri, bound for California. It was known as the Oatman Party. Somewhere near the Gila River the Oatmans' wagon, having left the other wagons, was attacked by Indians. Mr. Oatman and his wife were killed, along with several other members of the family. Their two small daughters were kidnapped. Many years later, one of these children was found, her chin lined with tattoos. The other daughter died of starvation and ill treatment.

One of the families to survive this expedition was the Thompson family which continued its perilous journey to California, arriving in June, 1851. Mr. Rowland and Mr. Workman met the party as they descended from the Puente Hills, and Mr. Workman accompanied them to the banks of the San Gabriel River, where they decided to stay. According to the 1850 census, the Thompsons are supposedly the fifth family to settle in the area, preceded only by four other squatter families.

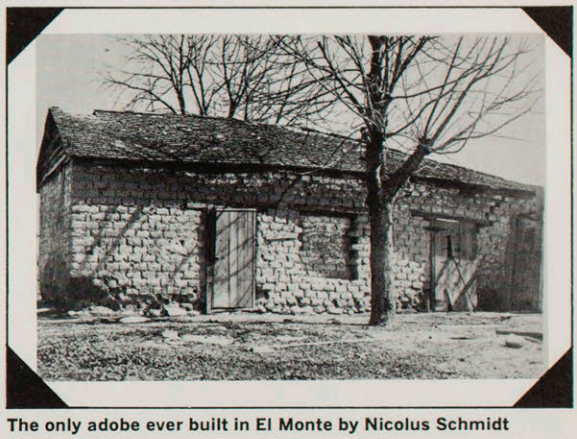
In the fall of 1851 a Kentuckian, Captain J. A. Johnson, led a wagon train into the area and settled to the east of what is now the Rio Hondo River, a branch of the San Gabriel. From this beginning developed a town which was first called Lexington after Johnson's home town in Kentucky. The town was the first settlement in Southern California to be founded by the *American gringo*. Johnson served as both school teacher and minister in the first willow frame building, which doubled as both school and church in late 1851.

Although everybody in the town was a squatter, it is surprising to note that Mr. Henry Dalton, the owner of the San Francisquito Rancho, was apparently very patient with them. Unfortunately, however, it would seem that the settlers took advantage of his good nature. Because most of them were agricultural farmers they needed a source of meat—a problem they solved by riding into the hills and "borrowing" some of the Puente and Francisquito cattle. If a complaint was raised it was simply ignored.

When the gold rush hit northern California, Lexington's population increased considerably. As the town grew, it acquired the nickname of *El Monte,* or *The Monte,* meaning *the wooded spot.* Americans passing through on their way to the gold fields generally stopped in El Monte to buy supplies and have their wagons repaired. These gold seekers arrived by three principal trails from the East, one of which was the famous Santa Fe Trail. Most of them continued to the gold fields, but some who were tired of traveling settled at The Monte and established businesses. Thus the town became known as *the end of the Santa Fe Trail.*

As El Monte grew in size it also grew in importance. It became noted not only as a haven for weary gold seekers but also as the main stop between Los Angeles and San Bernardino. The Butterfield Overland Mail coaches rolled in every day to pick up and deposit passengers. The blacksmith's shop did a lively business in wagon repairs and horseshoeing. In its resemblance to the small, bustling frontier towns of the Midwest El Monte was so unique, so different from other Southern California towns, that the Spanish speaking people termed it *El Pueblo Nuevo Americano,* the new American town.

E. W. Selbach Market. One of the first meat markets in El Monte.



The only adobe ever built in El Monte by Nicolus Schmidt in 1850.

Waterman L. Ormsby in his book, *The Butterfield Overland Mail,* describes El Monte thus: *A few miles before reaching Los Angeles City, we pass through the beautiful little town of El Monte, which is ranged along the road for nearly five miles, and is composed of a series of neat looking houses built of wood, and considerable cultivated land. The fences are, many of them, "live fence," made by planting cottonwood, poplar, or willow, much like the Eastern willow, which soon grew to a large size and lines the road for miles. The post office is a wooden building, with a neat piazza and a shingled roof, which looks quite refreshing after over a thousand miles' travel without seeing a house having the appearance of civilization.*

Because the Santa Fe Trail, the southern route, ended at El Monte, the majority of the townspeople were Southerners. More specifically, most were Texans. As a result, when the Civil War broke out and California swayed with the Union, El Monte as a whole sympathized with the Confederacy. The situation created so much friction that in several instances Federal troops were sent into The Monte. Approximately ninety percent of the registered voters were Democrats.

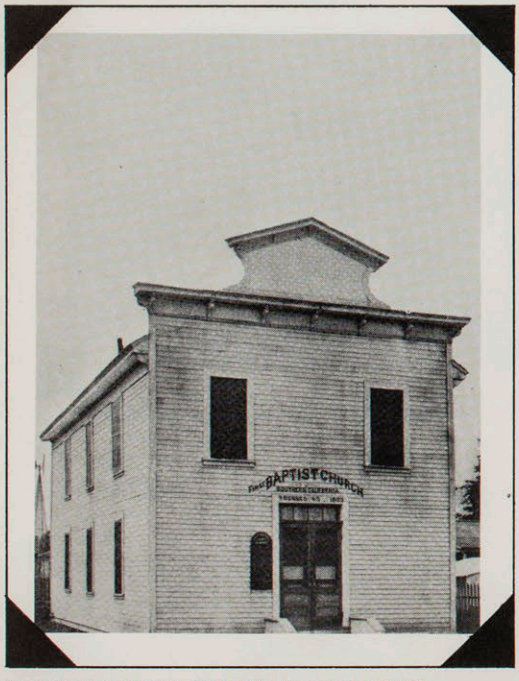
In the early '50's Los Angeles County supposedly had more desperados than any other place on the Pacific coast. In 1853, it is said that the mortality rate in Los Angeles was one person per day. Lawbreakers banished from the mining camps in the north drifted into the Los Angeles area. At the same time Mexicans ejected from Mexico for lawless behavior were making their way to Los Angeles. Though many of them migrated to the city, the surrounding communities absorbed their share. El Monte became notorious as a rough town, partly because of its lack of laws, and partly because of its proximity to Los Angeles. Murder was the only crime considered worth punishing, usually by hanging the culprit.

Unwilling to tolerate the constant harassment of the desperados, a small group of Los Angeles citizens established informally, in 1853, The Los Angeles *Rangers,* a group comparable to the *Vigilantes.* The *Rangers* served their purpose well. Punishment was swift and lawlessness decreased.

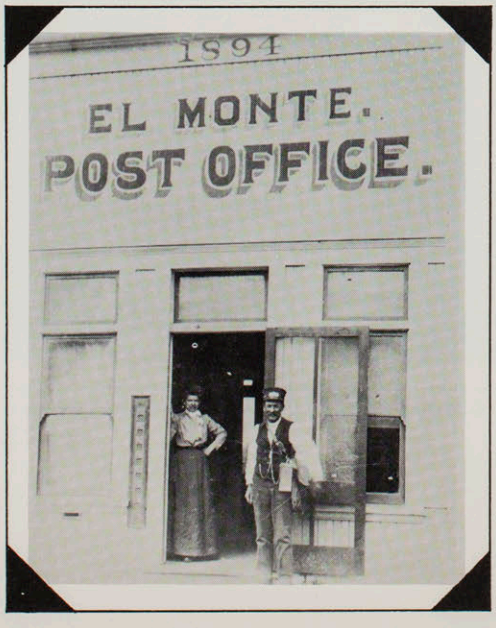
Following the same pattern, the citizens of El Monte formed the El Monte *Rangers,* more familiarly known as the *Monte Boys.* Notorious for their swiftness and efficiency, on one known occasion they helped the Los Angeles Rangers defend Los Angeles from a threatened desperado attack. On many occasions they invited themselves to take part in the informal hangings in Los Angeles. For a long time they were the indisputable executors of the law. Their deeds became the spirit of El Monte.

Often told is the tale about the Mexican worker from the Pio Pico Rancho who was hanged for killing a merchant in La Puente. When Pio Pico heard of

Main Street, El Monte 1920. Looking east from intersection of Lexington and Main St.



First Baptist Church, El Monte, founded in 1853.



El Monte Post Office, 1894. Miss Lula Mayes and El Monte Post Master.

the incident, it is said that he showed his indignation toward the Monte boys by sending a letter threatening to kill them all. The town replied by inviting him to visit El Monte and promising him a warm welcome. Pio Pico declined the invitation.

In 1853 El Monte was surveyed into plots which were sold to the newly arrived settlers. This ended the squatter period. At this time the name was revised from *Lexington* to *El Monte,* the name which seemed most popular at the time. As a consequence of its reputation, however, the town had several other appellations, such as *Poker Flat* and *Hell's Half Acre.*

As the town developed the atmosphere improved and prosperity prevailed. Corn became the chief agricultural crop. Cock-fighting and horse-racing frequently took place on Main Street as a form of pleasurable and sometimes profitable relaxation.

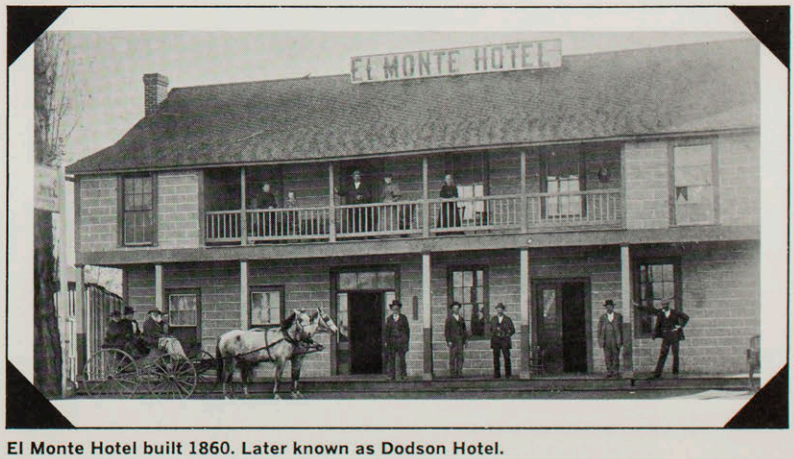
In 1867 disaster struck. A period of heavy rains caused the San Gabriel River to fork just north of the town, bringing about the formation of the present Rio Hondo from a small creek, formerly called the Lexington Wash. Continuing rains caused the San Gabriel River to overflow and flood half the town of El Monte. Destruction was heavy and people were forced to evacuate.

As the river subsided the people began the slow task of reconstruction and by 1890 the town was again on its feet and prospering. In 1893 El Monte had approximately thirty-four buildings in the downtown section. As a result of the flood The Monte became an island between two rivers. Even today the east-west boundaries of the town extend to the rivers while the northern boundary reaches approximately to the fork.

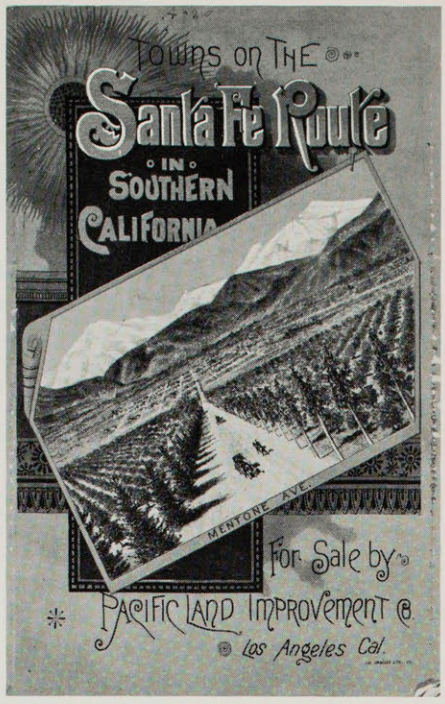
By the turn of the century El Monte had become a settled, respectable community, noted as the center of activity in the San Gabriel Valley. The wild-west atmosphere was slowly disappearing as the metropolitan area developed. By 1920 the blacksmith shop had vanished, to be replaced by newer industries. Many of the early farms were broken up and divided into smaller plots of land. The town became a strategic trade center in Los Angeles County because of its proximity to other trade centers in the area. The town slowly changed its face. Nevertheless, it maintained its spirit of uniqueness.

The establishment of an historical museum by the Historical Society of El Monte has preserved the spirit of *The End of the Santa Fe Trail.*

Dobyns and Dodson Store about 1860. Mrs. Flunia Dobyns Sheipser, daughter of Mr. Dobyns, who is 84 years old, is on the board of the El Monte Historical Society.



El Monte Hotel built 1860. Later known as Dodson Hotel.



"The Towns On the Santa Fe Route in Southern California" issued in 1888. Brochures like this which told of the immense size and beauty of Southern California did much to increase the permanent population of Southern California.

HOW PAPER KEPT THE RAILROADS RUNNING

James Zordich, Student Worker, Mechanical Sciences Section

Historical accounts depicting the development of American railroads have all but overlooked one significant element —an element whose effect as a stimulant to the growth of the railroad system has never been assessed.

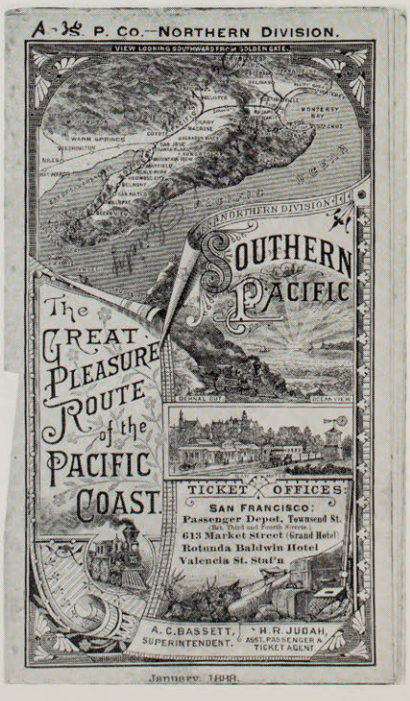
This unsuspected element that kept the railroads running was *paper*. Along with men and machines paper proved to be an essential item in the growth and operation of the railroad system.

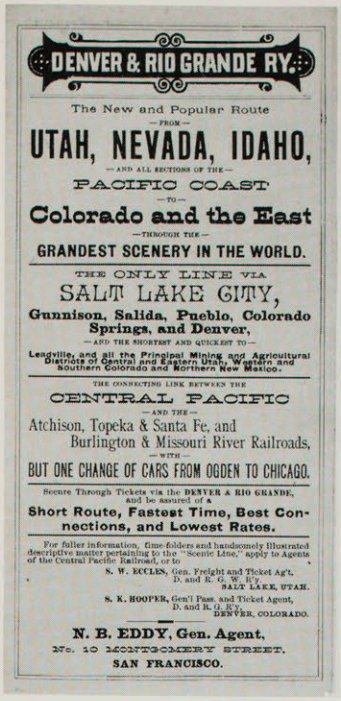
Train orders—timetables—tickets—these were only a few of the forms in which paper made its appearance. Elaborately printed brochures in which ornate and colorful engravings showed locomotives pulling their cars through virgin wilderness proved highly effective in promoting travel by rail. These tempting morsels of richly textured paper also doubled as guides, effectively describing the countryside the passenger might enjoy observing while traveling a particular route. Tickets and schedules also served this double function.

On trains with dining facilities, ornate menus, printed, of course, on carefully selected paper, described delicacies that often rivaled those of the famous eastern restaurants.

As the number of railroads increased and competition became more intense,

A Northern Pacific Railroad descriptive brochure of 1882. This particular brochure was used to describe the beauty of Yellowstone National Park. This descriptive approach was successful in increasing the railroad's tourist trade.


A. T. & S. F. P. Co.—NORTHERN DIVISION.
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM GOLDEN GATE.
NORTHERN DIVISION OF
SOUTHERN PACIFIC
The GREAT PLEASURE ROUTE of the PACIFIC COAST.
TICKET OFFICES
SAN FRANCISCO:
Passenger Depot, Townsend St.
613 Market Street (Grand Hotel
Rotunda Baldwin Hotel
Valencia St. Stn'n
A. C. BASSETT, SUPERINTENDENT.
H. R. JUDAH, ASST. PASSENGER & TICKET AGENT.
January 1888.


DENVER & RIO GRANDE RY.
The New and Popular Route
—FROM—
UTAH, NEVADA, IDAHO,
—AND ALL SECTIONS OF THE—
PACIFIC COAST
—TO—
Colorado and the East
—THROUGH THE—
GRANDEST SCENERY IN THE WORLD.
THE ONLY LINE VIA
SALT LAKE CITY,
Gunnison, Salida, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Denver,
—AND THE SHORTEST AND QUICKEST TO—
Leadville, and all the Principal Mining and Agricultural Districts of Central and Eastern Utah, Western and Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico.
THE CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE
CENTRAL PACIFIC
—AND THE—
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, and Burlington & Missouri River Railroads,
—WITH—
BUT ONE CHANGE OF CARS FROM OGDEN TO CHICAGO.
Secure Through Tickets via the DENVER & RIO GRANDE, and be assured of a
Short Route, Fastest Time, Best Connections, and Lowest Rates.
For fuller information, time-folders and handsomely illustrated descriptive matter pertaining to the "Scenic Line," apply to Agents of the Central Pacific Railroad, or to
S. W. ECCLES, Gen. Freight and Ticket Ag't. D. and R. G. W. R'y. SALT LAKE, UTAH.
S. K. HOOPER, Gen'l Pass. and Ticket Agent, D. and R. G. R'y. DENVER, COLORADO.
N. B. EDDY, Gen. Agent,
No. 10 MONTGOMERY STREET.
SAN FRANCISCO.

Left: Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Timetable issued in 1884.

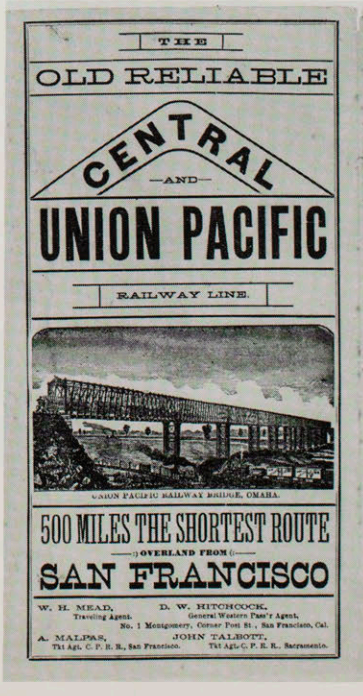
A-31
BYRON HOT SPRINGS—See page 4.
(TABLES CORRECTED TO FEBRUARY 9TH.)
Vol. I. FEBRUARY, 1889. No. 11.
OFFICIAL TIME SCHEDULES
OF ALL TRAINS CARRYING PASSENGERS ON THE ROADS OF THE
Southern Pacific Company
REVISED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE TIME SCHEDULES COMPANY,
P. O. BOX 1625, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Right: The Time Schedules, Southern Pacific Company. Complete list of railroad schedules for the Western United States, issued in 1889.

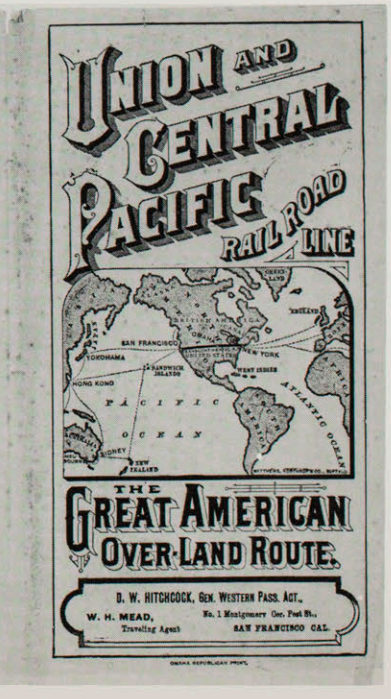
the effectiveness of these various paper inducements became even more essential to the success of the particular company producing them. It would seem, however, that eventually a limit was reached. With all of the competing brochures making equally tempting promises, other means had to be devised to beat the competition. As an example, both the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads, in an effort to build up their runs to Los Angeles from the East, advertised fares of one dollar. This, of course, became immediately popular with California-bound travelers who hastened to take advantage of such below normal rates.

Photography was another device used to great advantage by the railroads—affording, as it did, a quick means of visually recording spectacular scenery that might tempt the prospective traveler. To secure a generous supply of promotional material, railroad companies hired photographers to work full time snapping pictures of the territory their trains traversed. In order to handle the resulting flood of photographs, the companies attached special photography cars to the regular trains. These photo cars contained darkrooms, storage facilities and living quarters for the photographer. This mobility enabled the photographers to take and process a large number of pictures of great variety.

The illustrations used for this article comprise a small portion of the extensive collection of railroad literature in the Mechanical Sciences Collection in the Museum. Because these schedules, tickets, and brochures are works of art in themselves, they have been preserved by collectors and museums and today they help to recall the history and feeling of a bygone era in American transportation.


THE
OLD RELIABLE
CENTRAL
—AND—
UNION PACIFIC
RAILWAY LINE.
UNION PACIFIC RAILWAY BRIDGE, OMAHA.
500 MILES THE SHORTEST ROUTE
—OVERLAND FROM—
SAN FRANCISCO
W. H. MEAD, Traveling Agent. D. W. HITCHCOCK, General Western Pass'r Agent, No. 1 Montgomery, Corner Post St., San Francisco, Cal.
A. MALPAS, Ttl Agt. C. P. R. R., San Francisco. JOHN TALBOTT, Ttl Agt. C. P. R. R., Sacramento.

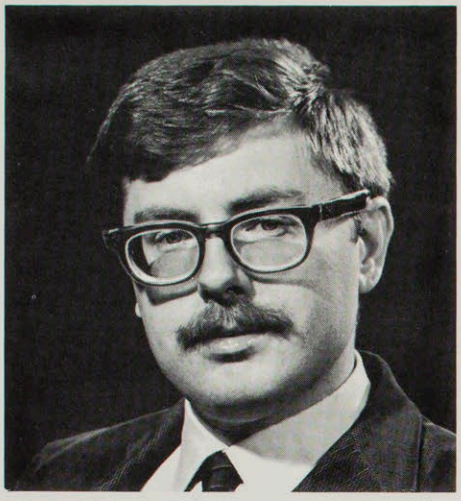
Southern Pacific Railroad—Northern Division timetable issued in January, 1888. This timetable is an excellent example of the ornate engraving used on railroad timetables.



This early timetable was issued by the Union and Central Pacific Railroad in 1876. This timetable gives the schedules for the Transcontinental Route which was opened just seven years prior in 1869.

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

Peter R. Antheil



Peter R. Antheil has recently joined the Museum staff as a Preparator in the Education Division.

Mr. Antheil has been a professional model builder for the past ten years working with various commercial firms primarily in the field of architecture and in the preparation of models for civic redevelopment projects. He has also been the principal designer and builder of a model railroad of the 1920 period owned by a Burbank resident. The model is seventy feet long and six feet wide.

Mr. Antheil was educated in Los Angeles public schools, graduating from Hollywood High. He attended the University of Oregon and the University of Southern California where he studied architecture and the University of California at Los Angeles where he was a history major. His father is George Antheil, the well known composer.

A Recent Addition To the Staff

Carol Jean Bumgardner

Miss Carol Jean Bumgardner, is preparator for the Geology-Mineralogy Section. She first came to the Museum as a volunteer assistant while a student in Geology and Zoology at Whittier College. Graduating in 1960, she then worked at Arcadia Material Testing Laboratory for the United States government and her last employment, before joining our staff, was laboratory technician at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Her position at Scripps involved work on the Project Mohole, California current population analyses and Santa Barbara Basin sediment studies.

Mary Jo McGowan

Mary Jo McGowan has joined the staff of the Division of Education as Museum Education Assistant. Mrs. McGowan will be in charge of the Museum's School Study Program. Included in her duties will be the scheduling of classes and training of guides as well as general supervision of the program. Mrs. McGowan was born in Welch, Oklahoma, but received most of her schooling in Los Angeles public schools. She is a graduate of California State College at Los Angeles, holding a B.A. degree in English and is continuing her studies toward the M.A. She has served in an executive capacity on the local level with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Indian Guides. She has two children: Judy, 18, and Ricky, 16.

Mrs. McGowan will fill the position vacated by Mrs. Dru Benefiel.

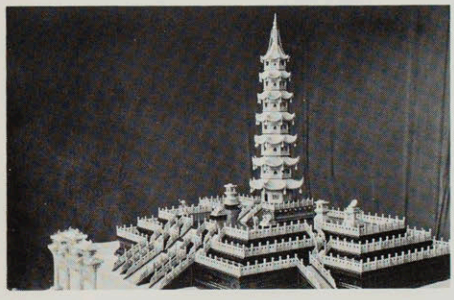
Standing Up Country Preview

On April 27, 700 members and guests attended the reception and preview of "Standing Up Country." This exhibition of photographs, maps, artifacts and historical memorabilia of the Canyonlands of Utah and Arizona, was compiled by the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art at Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Mortimer Kline, hospitality chairman, was in charge of the arrangements for this event. She was ably assisted by members of the Docent Council.

Coming Event

The World of Jade

Chang Wen Ti



One of the most important assemblages of jade carvings of the Republican era (modern or post-K'ang Hsi-Ch'ien Lung) ever to arrive in America will be on exhibit September 15, 1965 to March 1, 1967. Included in the exhibit, featuring "The Sacred Jade Pagoda," from the collection of Chang Wen Ti will be representative pieces of carved and natural jade from significant localities of the world.

The jade pagoda was carved from pieces of apple-green colored jadeite from Burma weighing 6,000 pounds. Carved over a period of 10 years by 150 jade artisans, this monument in jade now weighs a delicate 75 pounds and stands 50 inches high.

The Chang Wen Ti Collection of Jade will be on loan from the Oakland Museum.

BOOKSHOP

CALIFORNIA HISTORY— To Have and to Hold

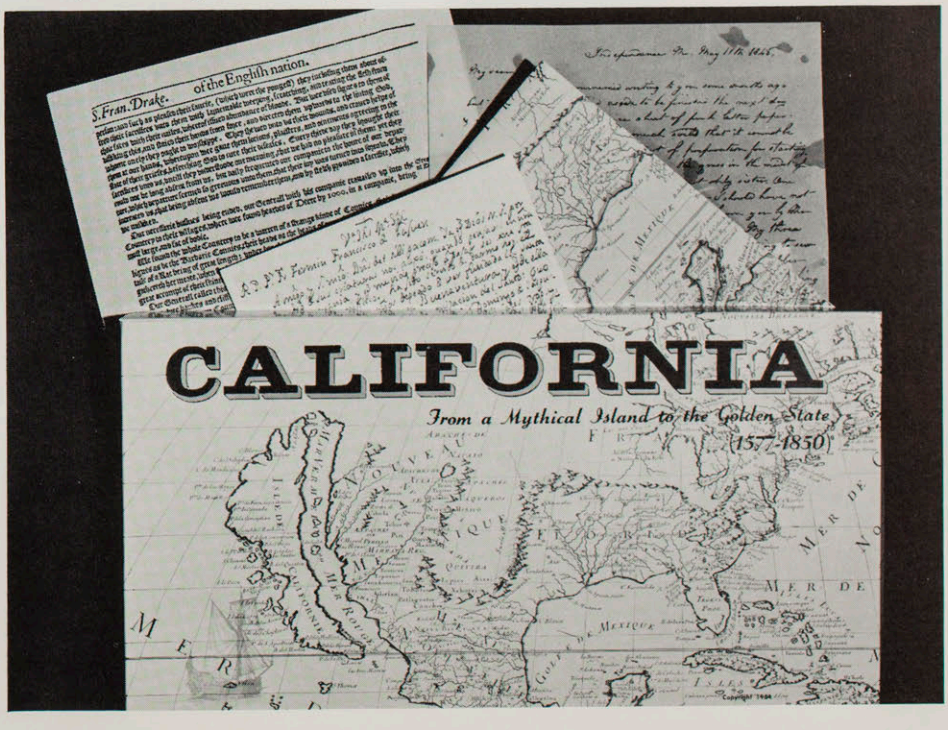
Visitors to the Los Angeles County Museum's California History Gallery may now supplement and enrich their impressions with the help of two new study aids recently placed on sale in the Museum Bookshop.

The first of these, the Museum's own *Guide and Catalogue of the California Hall,* made its long-awaited appearance in February and has received highly gratifying critical response. It offers a complete description of the Museum's extensive display, (147 pgs—$3.00).

The second new study aid is an attractive boxed kit put out by Heritage House, a local firm specializing in educational and reference guides. Containing replicas of selected items of early Californiana, the kit helps to make tangible our often overly abstract, often hackneyed vision of history. Through painstaking research, including careful study of archival depositories, the developers of the kit have duplicated with uncanny fidelity the original materials of the past. It is quite thrilling, even for a museum curator, to open one of these kits and examine the authentic (so the experts testify) replicas inside.

The reasonably priced ($4.95) "California" package is generously endowed. Starting with a contemporary's account of Sir Francis Drake's visit to California, reproduced in archaic script on stiff brown paper, this collection recalls some decisive high points in California's early history. A full-sized, seventeenth-century map shows California as an island. A document giving the green light to Serra and Portolá to occupy a neglected territory is embellished with the fantastically curlicued signatures of the Spanish officials. And so on, throughout the intelligently packaged kit. Even a muslin facsimile of the first Bear Flag Republic banner, misspelled and all, is thrown in for good measure. Helpful, too, is the concise and appropriate commentary by Dr. Andrew Rolle, Professor of History at Occidental College (guest speaker at the Museum Alliance Annual Meeting in May 1964).

This kit should provide those who are intrigued with California's past with much pleasure and treasure. The individual items from the kit may also be purchased from the Bookshop. They are admirably suited for framing. Frequent visits to the Museum Bookshop will prove rewarding as the stock is constantly changing. Alliance members receive a 20% discount on items not sold at cost.



Los Angeles County Museum
Exposition Park, Los Angeles 7, California
Return Requested

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